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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A direct backlight module, comprising:

a diffuser;
a reflecting plate disposed under the diffuser;
an illumination tube disposed between the diffuser and the reflecting plate; and
a support disposed ~~on a non-edge part of the reflecting plate and between the~~
~~diffuser and the reflecting plate for supporting the diffuser and illumination tube and~~
~~preventing bending of the diffuser and illumination tube, wherein the support has~~ the
support having a fitting portion, wherein:

the fitting portion comprises two side walls extending upwardly and separately,
~~into which the illumination tube directly fits.~~

the illumination tube is disposed in the fitting portion and between the side
walls, and

at least one of the side walls extends toward and beyond the top of the
illumination tube for preventing bending of the diffuser.

2. (previously presented) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein a first gap exists between the support and the diffuser to protect the diffuser from deformation due to thermal expansion of the support.

3. (previously presented) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein a second gap exists between the fitting portion of the support and the illumination tube to

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protect the illumination tube from deformation due to thermal expansion of the support.

4. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the reflecting plate further comprises a groove and the support further comprises an engaging portion engaged in the groove.

5. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support is fixed to the reflecting plate by glue.

6. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 5, wherein the support is fixed to the reflecting plate by hot glue.

7. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fitting portion of the support is a circular hole.

8. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the fitting portion of the support is a U-shaped recess.

9. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support has a substantially rectangular shape.

10. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support has a substantially polygonal shape.

11. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support has a substantially curved shape.

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12. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support is made of plastic.

13. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a diffusing plate disposed on the diffuser.

14. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a prism disposed on the diffuser.

15. (original) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 13, further comprising a prism disposed on the diffusing plate.

16. (currently amended) A direct backlight module, comprising:

a diffuser;

a reflecting plate disposed under the diffuser;

an illumination tube disposed between the diffuser and the reflecting plate; and

a support disposed ~~on the reflecting plate and between the diffuser and the reflecting plate for supporting the diffuser and the illumination tube simultaneously, wherein the support has~~, the support having a fitting portion into which the illumination tube directly fits, and a first gap exists between the support and the diffuser to protect the diffuser from deformation due to thermal expansion of the support, wherein:

the fitting portion has two side walls extending upwardly and separately,

the illumination tube is disposed in the fitting portion and between the side walls, and

at least one of the side walls extends toward and beyond the top of the illumination tube for preventing bending of the diffuser.

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17. (new) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 1, wherein the side walls are connected to each other after extending beyond the top of the illumination tube.

18. (new) The direct backlight module as claimed in claim 16, wherein the side walls are connected to each other after extending beyond the top of the illumination tube.

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